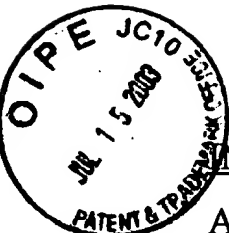


3732



IN THE US PATENT AND TM OFFICE

Appn. No.: 09/755,231
Filing Date: 01/08/01
Applicant: Sekendur, Oral F.
Appn. Title: **One-Piece Disposable Dental Articulator**
Examiner: Lucchesi, Nicholas Mailed 6/27/03
Group: 3300 Chicago, IL
Art Unit: 3732

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

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Date: 6/27/03

Applicant

Oral Sekendur

(773) 880-5574



IN THE US PATENT AND TM OFFICE

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER #3700

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 3/28/03

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

1. Examiner claims Hudson discloses a “one piece” articulator. In fact, Hudson discloses three piece articulator comprising upper and lower tray-like parts 11, 12 pivotably connected together by a hinge-plate 13 (col. 1. lines 42-45). The present application discloses a one-piece articulator.
2. Hudson discloses a single hinge. The present application discloses upper and lower hinges.
3. Examiner alleges the use of upper and lower hinges would have been obvious in Hudson “as the use of multiple hinges is well known in the articulator art, if greater flexibility and range of motion of the upper and lower models is desired. This allegation is false for several reasons. First, the applicant is not aware of the use of upper and lower hinges in any articulator. Second, upper and lower hinges, working simultaneously will guarantee a useless and unworkable articulator that will never occlude in the same position twice.

Upper and lower hinges will cause the articulator to either under-bite or over-bite, and never accurately represent the patient's actual bite.

4. In the present application, the upper and lower hinges never work simultaneously. In the present application, one hinge is always held in position by the retention holes 11, 12, 13 and/or 14 (See Claim 27). The hinge that is held in position by the retention holes does not move and is "frozen in position".
5. The Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner to discuss any outstanding issues and to expedite the application.
6. It is submitted that patentable subject matter is clearly present. If the Examiner agrees, but does not feel that the present claims are technically adequate, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner write acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oral Sekendur', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval border.

Applicant Oral Sekendur

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